



Summary Report

on the ASEM Transport Senior Officials' Meeting

Budapest, Hungary, 13-14 June, 2019

ASEM Transport Senior Officials Meeting was held on 13-14 June, 2019 in Budapest Hungary with the participation of representatives from 27 ASEM member states and the European Commission. The purpose of the meeting was the preparation of the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (TMM5) to be held on 11-12 December, 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. The host of the meeting was the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Hon. Dr. Ing. Djoko Sasono, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia informed the participants about the results achieved within the framework of the ASEM cooperation process during the period of the Indonesian Presidency and expressed Indonesia's support to the enhancement of joint international efforts related to the development of connectivity through addressing transport issues of common interest.

Mr. Harvey Rouse, Head of Unit for International Relations of Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE) presented the main transport policy objectives of the European Union with a special focus on sustainable connectivity, highlighting best practices within the European Union and emphasizing the importance of the efforts of EU member states to create the conditions of efficient, safe, environmentally friendly mobility, and fair competition in the transport industry in all modalities.

The following main topics have been proposed by the Hungarian Ministry and DG MOVE as priority focal areas for TMM5:

1. **Digitalization** related to transport infrastructure and integrated transport services.
2. **Decarbonization**, along with flexible adaptation to environmental and climate protection regulations, and
3. **Sustainable transport networks** providing the opportunity for steady economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life of the nations of the two continents, as well as the preservation of social and natural environment.

Within the framework of the listed priority areas the participants of the TSOM discussed the following ideas:

Digitalization

- Within the context of sustainable connectivity priority has to be given to innovative technologies related to automated and interconnected driving. The representatives of the Government of Hungary presented the idea and framework of a cooperative and interconnected transport system aiming to cover the entire region of Central-Europe and highlighted the ZalaZONE project, being a public road vehicle test track established in Zalaegerszeg, Hungary in 2016 with the purpose of managing the concept of proving ground, in order to build automotive and engineering knowledge, as well as to develop communication infrastructure associated with transport sector. The specification of the autonomous environment and related communication infrastructure has been designed to provide perfect testing capabilities for conventional vehicle dynamics, autonomous and interconnected vehicles, and future Intelligent Transport Systems applications, 5G mobile communication test networks. Above its test track function, the establishment put in operation on 20 May 2019, also provides research infrastructure to collaborative partners. Hungarian research teams using the research infrastructure of the field, as well as companies developing and using the Hungarian automotive and intelligent transport systems, will be able to join European digital transport projects. This test track is currently is unique in Europe available for testing self-driving functions of vehicles.
- A key element of transport policy is the electronic, distance based road toll system, which is a neutral and excellent tool for providing level playing field for all stakeholders of the economy within the context of multilateral trade. The representatives of the Hungarian Ministry gave a broad overview of the Hungarian road toll system, which was introduced in 2013 in accordance with the requirements of the European Union and covers approximately 7000 km of designated motorway and main road sections, and provides a constantly increasing revenue enabling the continuous improvement of the quality of the road system.
- Development of competitive public transport systems, i. e. the improvement of standards of and access to integrated transport services is of crucial importance in every aspects of p2p connectivity. Innovative technologies provide excellent opportunities for local community transport systems to use integrated electronic ticketing. Digitalizing ticketing systems is a perfect tool for providing a competitive alternative to individual modes of transport via real time information on the internet and smart phones.
- Rail digitalization improves the quality of transportation services in all aspects, that is quality of life, energy efficiency and sustainability. Widespread modernization in the railway sector will result in the optimization of energy consumption through the use of energy recovering systems together with GPS-based vehicle positioning and monitoring systems. Joint efforts of European countries to build a single, integrated European train control system will make interoperability possible. Further steps in this process are increasing the capacity of the existing railway network through introducing automatic train monitoring and improved security systems and increasing customer satisfaction through the combination of all improvement measures mentioned above.

Decarbonization and sustainability

- During the discussion many participants emphasized the necessity of the inter-continental cooperation of all stakeholders in the field of sustainable mobility, that is

investigating the possibilities and expected impacts of new industry standards (e. g. car emissions regulations). In this context cycling transport was mentioned as a very effective way of reducing CO2 emission, as well as the constant improvement of conditions of cycling and active promotion of cycling are considered as priority areas.

- The issue of the contribution of aviation to the global warming has been discussed as an impact more significant than previously expected, and the possibility of the limitation of air traffic was mentioned. In order to meet the constantly rising demand for airline capacity research and development of new environmentally sound technological solutions gains importance in aviation industry with an envisaged result in harmonizing efficiency and sustainability requirements. Air transport is expected to undergo a major transformation, as well as a transformation of national and EU regulations, due to the greater than expected contribution of air transport to global warming. Environmental regulation can be a constraint on the growth of air traffic, which may mean that airlines have to share limited capacity

As a follow up of the Bali Declaration as well as a basis of the Budapest Declaration to be adopted during the TMM5, the representatives of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary drew the attention of the participants to the questionnaire which has been sent out earlier to all member states. The questionnaire contains detailed questions related to national, regional and international achievements along the goals set out in the Bali Declaration accepted at the Fourth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting held in 2017 in Bali (Indonesia). Participants discussed in detail all issues dealt in the questionnaire and reviewed the answers of those member states that have already returned the questionnaire.

It was emphasized, that the concept of the questionnaire is the exchange of experience and best practices, therefore the information included in the questionnaire will be used for identifying core topics for further discussion and will be made available for all participants. The representatives of the Hungarian Ministry pointed out that any other additional information about any topics discussed in the questionnaire or new proposals will be appreciated from all member states.

In relation to the further steps towards the preparation of the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting, the following schedule of work has been agreed:

- Representatives of ASEM participating Governments are requested to return the questionnaire by end July 2019,
- Hungary will share the answers of the questionnaires and will synthesize the contributions, proposals and comments from member states and prepare a draft of the Budapest Declaration approximately by end August 2019,
- The proposed written draft text of the Budapest Declaration is expected to be circulated to member states by end September, 2019.

The Hungarian organizers informed the participants of the meeting about the proposed schedule and planned content of the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting to be held in December in Budapest, Hungary as follows:

As all member states have already been informed through ASEM InfoBoard, a preparatory TSOM meeting is to be held on 10 December 2019, with the aim of discussing the TMM5 agenda, the speakers and panelists proposed by member states as well as available time slots. In this meeting it is intended to confirm all registered interventions, and the schedule of the

proposed bilateral discussions is planned to be discussed as well. A further topic of this TSOM will be the discussion of the final version of the Budapest Declaration. Any additional technicalities can also be discussed in this preparatory meeting.

The date of the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting is 11-12 December, 2019 as it has already been published on ASEM InfoBoard (<https://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-5th-transport-ministers-meeting-asem-tmm5>). The Plenary Session of TMM5 is planned to be held on 11 December, 2019. The planned agenda will contain opening speeches, the discussion of the Budapest Declaration and the topics proposed by the June ASEM TSOM (digitalization, decarbonization, sustainable networks). A decision has to be made at this meeting about the organizer of the TMM6 event as well. Interested member states are kindly ask to sign their willingness to host TMM6 preferably until mid October 2019 to asem@itm.gov.hu. During the day of 12 December, 2019 a whole day excursion is planned to the proving ground of the ZalaZONE automotive test track center (www.zalazone.hu/en/).

The Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary will inform all member states of all possible new information on upcoming ASEM transport meetings in due course. In the meantime representatives of the member states are requested to follow ASEM InfoBoard (www.aseminfoboard.org).

Following the 13th June plenary session of the TSOM participants visited the city of Esztergom where the bicycle factory Neuzer showed the group around, providing testing experience as well.